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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS:
PROCLAMATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEARS

Japan: draft resolution

International Year of Volunteers, 2001

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International Year of Volunteers, 2001

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 2659 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, in which it decided to establish within the existing framework of the United Nations system, with effect from 1 January 1971, an international group of volunteers, the members of which should be designated collectively and individually as United Nations Volunteers,

"Recalling also its resolution 31/131 of 16 December 1976, in which it requested the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, inter alia, to study the best ways and means to ensure the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of youth and youth organizations in the planning and implementation of youth programmes launched by the United Nations Volunteers,

"Recalling further its resolution 31/166 of 21 December 1976, in which it requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to develop further the activities of the United Nations Volunteers in the field of domestic development services,

"Recalling its resolution 40/212 of 17 December 1985, in which it recognized the desirability of stimulating the work of all volunteers both in the field and in organizations - multilateral, bilateral or national, non-governmental or government-supported - and of giving encouragement to those volunteers, many of whom engage in volunteer service at considerable personal sacrifice, and inviting Governments to observe annually, on 5 December, an International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to promote worldwide publicity on the important role of volunteer service,

"Bearing in mind the conclusion of the Fourth World Conference on Women that women should be enabled to benefit from an ongoing acquisition of knowledge and skills beyond those acquired during youth, and that this concept of lifelong learning includes knowledge and skills gained in formal education and training, as well as learning that occurs in informal ways, including volunteer activity, unremunerated work and traditional knowledge, [1]

"Bearing in mind also the Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development [2] and the emphasis placed on the importance of new players taking initiative at the local, national and international levels, particularly individuals and organizations of civil society, and on the need to promote socially-useful volunteer work, and to allocate appropriate resources to support such work,

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[1] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 96.IV.13 (A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, para. 73).

[2] Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 96.IV.8 (A/CONF.166/9)).

"Bearing in mind decision 96/32 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, in which the Executive Board acknowledged the importance of the contribution made by volunteers worldwide and expressed its support for United Nations Volunteers efforts to promote further volunteer work,

"Noting the significant contribution that volunteers make in their own countries to the improvement of the welfare and the realization of the aspirations of their fellow citizens to improved economic and social well-being,

"Noting also the major achievements of volunteers assigned internationally to the attainment of the development goals of Member States,

"Noting further the assistance of United Nations Volunteers, in particular to United Nations agencies and operations, in the fields of social and economic development, humanitarian aid and the promotion of peace, and democracy and respect for human rights, and above all, in helping to link these efforts closely to the populations for whom they are intended,

"Convinced that the need for volunteer effort is greater than ever, given the adverse impact of global problems such as environmental degradation, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS on the more vulnerable sectors of societies, and the contemporary trend for civil society - in partnership with Government and the private sector - to assume ever greater responsibilities in the development process,

"Convinced also that a year designed to enhance the recognition, facilitation, networking, and promotion of volunteer service, with particular emphasis upon activity at the local level, could make a significant contribution to generating increased awareness of the achievement and the further potential of volunteer service, to encouraging offers of service from a greatly expanded number of individuals, and to channelling resources to enable the even greater effectiveness of such service,

"Noting with satisfaction that the proposal for the year has gained widespread support,

"Taking into account its resolution 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 concerning guidelines for international years and anniversaries,

"1. Proclaims 2001 the International Year of Volunteers;

"2. Invites Governments, United Nations specialized agencies and bodies, intergovernmental, volunteer and non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations to collaborate and identify ways and means to enhance the recognition, facilitation, networking, and promotion of volunteer service in the preparations for and observance of the Year;

"3. Designates the United Nations Volunteers programme/United Nations Development Programme to act as the focal point for preparations, implementation and follow-up of the Year within the United Nations system and encourages the United Nations Volunteers to continue the process of close collaboration and partnership with Governments, United Nations bodies and international volunteer and non-governmental organizations, in particular, as regards preparations for and implementation for the Year;

"4. Invites policy-making organs and secretariats of specialized agencies, organizations and other bodies in the United Nations system to consider and to make special efforts to achieve the objectives of the Year during the period 1998 to 2001, and to pursue follow-up action to the Year for the benefit of all countries and peoples in the context of their substantive mandates;

"5. Appeals to Member States as well as to other participants in the observance of the Year to highlight 2001 as a special occasion benefiting the peoples of the world in their quest for a better life for all, based on the voluntary commitment of individuals and groups to make available their time and share their resources and skills in favour of those less advantaged;

"6. Calls for a concerted promotional and information campaign on behalf of the Year at the national, regional and international levels, with strong participation of the mass media;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General:

"(a) To take specific measures, through all the communication media at his disposal, particularly within the mandates of the

Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to give widespread publicity to the preparations for and observance of the Year and to disseminate information on the subject;

"(b) To report on the observance of the Year at the national, regional and international levels, and to submit specific proposals on the follow-up to the Year, including a draft plan of action, if appropriate, to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session."

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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: PROCLAMATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEARS

Argentina, Armenia*, Australia, Austria*, Bangladesh, Belgium*, Canada, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica*, Djibouti, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras*, Hungary*, Iceland, Indonesia*, Ireland*, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritius*, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of)*, Mozambique, Nepal*, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru*, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal*, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania*, United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe*: revised draft resolution

International Year of Volunteers, 2001

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"International Year of Volunteers, 2001

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 2659 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, 31/131 of 16 December 1976, 31/166 of 21 December 1976, 40/212 of 17 December 1985 and 49/139 B of 20 December 1994, and bearing in mind

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

decision 96/32 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population fund, in which the Executive Board acknowledged the importance of the contribution made by volunteers worldwide and expressed its support for United Nations Volunteers efforts to promote further volunteer work,

"Taking into account its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 concerning guidelines for international years and anniversaries,

"Noting the significant contribution that volunteers make in their own countries to improving the welfare and realizing the aspirations of their fellow citizens for improved economic and social well-being, and the financing of their work largely through civil society, including the private sector, as well as the important achievements of volunteers assigned internationally to the attainment of the development goals of Member States,

"Noting the assistance of United Nations Volunteers, in particular to United Nations agencies and operations in the fields of social and economic development, humanitarian aid and the promotion of peace, democracy and respect for human rights, above all in helping link these efforts closely to the populations for whom they are intended,

"Also noting the importance of new players taking the initiative at local, national and international levels, particularly individuals and organizations of civil society, in partnership with Governments, as emphasized in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, [1]

"Bearing in mind the conclusion of the Fourth World Conference on Women, that women should be enabled to benefit from lifelong learning, including volunteer activity, [2] and noting that much volunteer activity is performed by women and that such socially useful work should be appropriately recognized and supported,

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[1] Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1.

[2] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, para. 73.

"Convinced that the need for volunteer effort is greater than ever, in light of the adverse impact of such global problems as environmental degradation, poverty, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS on the more vulnerable sectors of societies, and of the trend for civil society, in partnership with government and the private sector, to assume ever greater responsibilities in the development process,

"Also convinced that a year designed to enhance the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of volunteer service, with particular emphasis upon activity at the local level, could make a significant contribution to generating increased awareness of the achievements and the further potential of volunteer service, to encouraging offers of service from a greatly expanded number of individuals and to channelling resources to enable the even greater effectiveness of such service,

"Noting with satisfaction that the proposal for the year has gained widespread support within civil society,

"1. Proclaims 2001 the International Year of Volunteers;

"2. Invites Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental, volunteer and non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations to collaborate and identify ways and means to enhance the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of volunteer service in the preparations for and observance of the Year;

"3. Designates the United Nations Volunteers programme, without prejudice to existing priorities, as the focal point for preparations, implementation and follow-up of the Year in close collaboration with the United Nations system, and encourages the United Nations Volunteers to continue the process of close collaboration and partnership with Governments and international and national volunteer and non-governmental organizations, in particular, with regard to the preparations for and implementation of the Year;

"4. Invites policy-making organs and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to consider, in the context of their substantive mandates, the principles and objectives of the Year, making special efforts through existing and new programmes during the period 1998-2001, and to pursue follow-up action to the Year for the benefit of all countries and peoples;

"5. Appeals to Member States, as well as to all other participants in the observance of the Year, to highlight 2001 as a special occasion benefiting the peoples of the world in their quest for a better life for all, based on the voluntary commitment of individuals and groups to make available their time and share their resources and skills in favour of those less advantaged;

"6. Calls for a concerted promotional and information campaign on behalf of the Year at national, regional and international levels, with strong participation of the mass media;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to take specific measures, within existing resources, through all the communications media at his disposal, in particular within the mandates of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to give widespread publicity to the preparations for and observance of the Year and to disseminate information on the subject."

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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES:
ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

Environment

Extract from the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its nineteenth session

(Nairobi, 21 April - 2 May 1997)

The attached text reproduces chapter III of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its nineteenth session, entitled "Matters requiring the specific attention of the General Assembly and/or the Economic and Social Council", and is made available to the Council for its information. The complete report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second session, Supplement No. 25 (A/52/25) and will be before the Assembly for its consideration.

GE.97-62595 (E)

CHAPTER III

MATTERS REQUIRING THE SPECIFIC ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND/OR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Date and place of the twentieth session of the Governing Council

28. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 7 February 1997, the Governing Council decided that its twentieth session would be held at Nairobi from 17 to 28 May 1999. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 4 April 1997, however, the Council decided, in the light of paragraph 14 of its decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997, that its twentieth session would be of five days duration, from 24 to 28 May 1999.

B. Special session of the Governing Council to review the results and decisions of the General Assembly at its special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

29. Also at its 8th plenary meeting, the Governing Council decided to hold its own special session, from 12 to 14 November 1997, to review the results and decisions of the General Assembly at its special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, to be held in June 1997. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 4 April 1997, however, the Council decided, in order to allow the secretariat sufficient time to complete the tasks assigned to it by the Council at its nineteenth session, that the dates of the special session should not be fixed as yet but that it should be held over a three day period between late 1997 and the end of January 1998.

30. By section I, paragraph 12 of its decision 19/32, the Council approved an extraordinary additional appropriation of Fund resources in 1998-1999 of up to $1 million for the management and administrative support costs budget, $500,000 of which would be earmarked for the costs associated with the anticipated special session in the event that they were not covered by the United Nations regular budget.

C. Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme

31. By paragraph 1 of its decision 19/1, the Governing Council adopted the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme to the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21. The Declaration is annexed to that decision. By paragraph 2 of the same decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to transmit the Declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to be considered in the ongoing reform process of the United Nations system. By paragraph of the decision, it requested the President of the Governing Council to present the Declaration to the high-level segment of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and to the General Assembly at its special session.

2. Contribution of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the special session of the General Assembly in 1997

32. By paragraph 4 of its decision 19/2, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to submit for the consideration of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, the meeting of its Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group, and the United Nations General Assembly at its special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, the documents on the implementation by the United Nations Environment Programme of Agenda 21, the contribution of the Governing Council to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1997 (sections A and B, paragraphs 4-19 of UNEP/GC.19/30 and UNEP/GC.19/INF.13), the report on the Global Environment Outlook, 3/ the observations and recommendations regarding the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s 4/ and Governing Council decision 19/20. By paragraph 5 of the same decision, the Governing Council invited the Commission and its Ad Hoc Inter-Sessional Working Group to take those documents into account in the preparation of the Commission's report on the implementation of Agenda 21 for submission to the special session of the General Assembly.

33. In paragraph 6 of the same decision, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/181 and on behalf of the Governing Council, to bring to the attention of the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its fifth session, its Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group and the General Assembly at its special session, the outcome of the Council's consideration of the issues related to the review and appraisal of the implementation by the United Nations Environment Programme of Agenda 21. By paragraph 7 of the decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to take the necessary measures to follow up the actions requested of the United Nations Environment Programme by the General Assembly at its special session. By paragraph 8 of the decision, it reiterated its request to the President of the Council (see para. 31 above) to present the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme to the high-level segment of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and to the General Assembly at its special session.

3. Report on the Global Environment Outlook

34. By paragraph 1 of its decision 19/3, the Governing Council noted with appreciation the timely production of the new, comprehensive report on the state of the world environment, Global Environment Outlook-1, as requested in Council decision 18/27 C of 26 May 1995, as well as the participatory assessment process (known as the Global Environment Outlook process) which has been established to support UNEP assessment activities, and its components (the scientific working groups, network of collaborating centres, regional and United Nations wide consultative mechanisms). By paragraph 2 of the same decision, the Council concurred with the Executive Director's

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3/ UNEP/GC.19/26.

4/ UNEP/GC.19/20, annex.

proposal to include the executive summary of the report, together with the views of the Council thereon, as an integral part of the report of the Council to the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 and to make the full text of the Global Environment Outlook report available to the General Assembly at that session. By paragraph 4 of the decision, it urged Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies, and other institutions to participate in, and contribute to, the future activities of the Global Environment Outlook process.

F. Progress report on good environmental housekeeping practices and guidelines in the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations system

35. In its decision 19/10, the Governing Council took note with appreciation of the progress report of the Executive Director on good environmental housekeeping practices and guidelines in the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations system (UNEP/GC.19/28), encouraged her to continue her initiatives in this area and requested her to communicate with the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management to urge the adoption of good environmental housekeeping practices throughout the United Nations system.

G Chemicals management

36. By paragraph 1 of its decision 19/13 A, the Governing Council confirmed the present mandate of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade, as given by the Council in its decision 18/12, and, by paragraph 4 of the same decision, requested the Executive Director to convene, in 1997, together with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a diplomatic conference for the purposes of adopting and signing an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure.

37. In paragraph 5 of that decision, the Governing Council called upon Governments to provide the necessary financial and technical assistance to enable the full and effective functioning of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

H. Water management

38. In its decision 19/14 A, the Governing Council endorsed the proposed role for the United Nations Environment Programme as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action and, according priority to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in its work, requested the Executive Director, inter alia, to expand the activities of the Global Programme of Action to all regional seas programmes and to establish links with other appropriate regional plans and programmes or conventions.

39. In paragraph 8 of that decision, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to recommend to the competent international organizations that they formally endorse those parts of the Global Programme of Action that are relevant to their mandates and, by paragraph 9, it urged Governments to

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take appropriate action within the governing bodies of relevant organizations and programmes, requesting, inter alia, the according of appropriate priority to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in the work programme of each organization. In paragraphs 11 and 12, the Governing Council requested the Administrative Committee on Coordination to continue reporting to it at its regular sessions; and invited the Administrative Committee's Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, in collaboration with its Subcommittee on Water, to perform the functions of a steering committee on technical cooperation and assistance for the Global Programme of Action.

1. The efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme toward the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, 1995-1996

40. By its decision 19/17, the Governing Council welcomed the entry into force of the Convention and urged all States that had not yet ratified the Convention to do so. In paragraph 6 of that decision, it took note of the [illegible] of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to accept the offer of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide the administrative and support arrangements for the Convention Secretariat.

41. In paragraphs 4 and 5 of that decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to maintain the function of UNDP as a global centre of excellence on desertification control, to continue and intensify research on development collaboration with leading world scientific institutions and centres of excellence on desertification and land degradation and drought issues, and to participate actively in assisting Governments and non-governmental organizations to implement the Convention and resolution 5/1 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, on urgent action for Africa.

42. In paragraph 9 (b), it encouraged the Executive Director to invite other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, financial institutions, funds and other interested parties to participate in the formulation and conclusion of partnership agreements or arrangements for the implementation of the convention at all levels in affected developing countries, particularly in Africa.

43. By paragraph 8 of the decision, it authorized the Executive Director to submit, on behalf of the Council, her report on the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme towards the implementation of the Convention in 1995 and 1996, through the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, to be held from 7 to 25 April 1997, to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its first session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and, by its paragraphs 10 and 11, urged Governments to provide relevant research and up-to-date data on the status of desertification and land degradation at the national level for the consideration of the Committee on Science and Technology of the Convention and, together with other interested organization, to make further contributions for the implementation of the Convention in affected developing countries, particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

J. Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme

44. By paragraph 1 of its decision 19/32, the Governing Council decided to establish a High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials as a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council, with the mandate, inter alia, to make reform and policy recommendations to the Governing Council, to provide guidance and advice to the Executive Director between sessions of the Governing Council and to support the Executive Director in mobilizing adequate and predictable financial resources for UNEP.

45. By paragraph 7 of the same decision, the Governing Council decided that, with a view to strengthening the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council, its mandate should include, inter alia, monitoring and assessing the implementation of Council decisions on administrative, budgetary and programme matters, reviewing the draft programme of work and budget during their preparation and preparing draft decisions on the basis of inputs from the secretariat.

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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES:
ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

Human settlements

Extract from the report of the Commission on Human Settlements at its sixteenth session

The attached text presents resolutions 16/1 and 16/2 adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its sixteenth session and is submitted to the Council for its information. The complete report of the Commission will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/52/8 and Add.1) and will include the report of the Commission on the progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. The report will be before the Assembly for its consideration.

GE.97-62661 (E)

A. Resolutions

1. Resolutions requiring action by the General Assembly

16/1. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/99 of 20 December 1995 on the work of the Commission on Human Settlements and on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, and 51/177 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), 1/

Recalling also relevant Commission resolutions, including resolution 15/1 of 1 May 1995;

Bearing in mind that the Habitat Agenda 2/ incorporates the principles of enablement and participation contained in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 3/

Bearing in mind also the relevant aspects of Agenda 21, 4/ adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Programme of Action 5/ adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, 6/ the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Programme of Action, 7/ adopted at the World Summit for Social Development, and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights, 8/

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996 (A/CONF.165/14).

2/ Ibid., chap.I, resolution 1, annex II.

3/ General Assembly resolution 43/181 annex.

4/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

5/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (A/CONF.171/13 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1.

6/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I. resolution 1, annex I.

7/ Ibid, annex II.

8/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24) (Part I) chap. III.

Recognizing that the operational focus of the Global Strategy is on action to be taken at the local and national levels with the participation of all partners in civil society and that regular monitoring of the impact of the national shelter strategy on the shelter situation in Member States is a crucial aspect of the implementation of the Strategy,

Taking note with satisfaction that many Governments have enhanced their existing national shelter strategies based on the principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and incorporated them into their national Habitat II plans of action,

Also noting with satisfaction that the Urban and Housing Indicators are being developed in over one hundred and ten countries,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 9/

1. Adopts the fifth report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 10/ and the proposed plan of action and timetable for the period 1998-1999 for the Global Strategy, 11/ and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to transmit them through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988;

2. Recommends that Governments extend, where appropriate, the application of the indicators to all cities and rural settlements;

3. Recommends Governments to prepare annual progress reports as a part of their annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and applying urban and housing indicators, as appropriate, and to submit these reports to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue the support given to the efforts of member countries by collecting and disseminating information on successful country experiences in various aspects of shelter delivery;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to promote within available resources the provision of assistance, including training, on sustainable enabling policies and strategies and on practical ways and means of formulating, adopting and implementing them;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the next phase of the Global Strategy to the Commission at its seventeenth session;

9/ HS/C/16/3.

10/ HS/C/16/3/Add.1.

11/ HS/C/16/3/Add.1, appendix.

7. Recommends to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption, at its fifty-second session, of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Strategy, and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as the lead agency for the Strategy,

"Noting that the conclusions of the mid-term review of the Strategy conducted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) were incorporated into the Habitat Agenda,

"Having considered the fifth report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

"Noting with satisfaction the support given to the implementation of the Global Strategy by donor Governments, international bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

"1. Commends Governments that are already revising, consolidating, formulating or implementing their national shelter strategies based on the enabling principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 as elaborated in the Habitat Agenda;

"2. Urges Governments, in connection with the implementation of their Habitat II national plans of action, to adopt and/or strengthen integrated national shelter strategies based on the enabling approach and sustainable development;

"3. Also urges Governments to integrate fully the environmental dimension in the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies, taking into account the relevant components of Agenda 21;

"4. Recommends that Governments extend the application of urban and housing indicators to cities and rural settlements for monitoring the progress of their national shelter strategy and the performance of the shelter sector, taking into account local conditions and sensitivity to gender considerations;

"5. Urges the international community to strengthen its support for national efforts to formulate and implement enabling shelter strategies in developing countries, as recommended in Agenda 21;

"6. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies, to provide, on the basis of an

approach consistent with the Global Strategy, increased financial and other support to Governments for achieving the objective of adequate shelter for all;

"7. Adopts the Plan of Action for the Global Strategy for the period 1998-1999, and urges Governments, relevant United Nations and private sector organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to prepare and implement their specific plans of action;

"8. Decides to subsume the sixth report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter, as called for in General Assembly resolution 43/181, into the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, to be submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/177."

7 May 1997
9th meeting

16/2. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the future role of the Commission on Human Settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements

Recommends to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Welcoming the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

"Bearing in mind its resolutions 2718 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 3001 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974 and, in particular, resolution 32/162 (XXXI) of 19 December 1977, by which it decided that the Economic and Social Council should transform the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning into the Commission on Human Settlements,

"Taking into account its resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, on the implementation of the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

"I

"Framework for the functioning of the Commission

"Recalling that the General Assembly, in resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, decided that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions, including Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, and together with the Commission on Human Settlements, shall constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

"Convinced that the follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) will be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to human settlements development and within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

"1. Reaffirms that the Commission on Human Settlements, as a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council, should have a central role in monitoring, within the United Nations system, the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and advising the Council thereon;

"2. Calls upon all the relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to identify specific actions that they will undertake, within their mandates, towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and invites them to inform the Administrative Committee on Coordination of their actions;

"3. Calls upon the programmes and funds of the United Nations system and the regional commissions, consistent with their respective mandates, to support fully the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, particularly at the field level, as appropriate;

"4. Invites the Bretton Woods institutions to consider how they might be actively involved in the implementation and the follow-up to the Conference, and enhance their cooperation with the United Nations system for that purpose;

"5. Decides, in view of the importance of non-governmental organizations and local authorities and the private sector and research organizations, in the promotion of human settlements development, that such organizations should be encouraged to participate in the work of the Commission, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 on the consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations;

"II

"Terms of reference

"6. Reaffirms the existing mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements as set out in Gene-al Assembly resolution 32/162 (XXXI) of 19 December 1977, while stressing the normative and catalytic character of the mandate;

"7. Reaffirms in particular the responsibility of the Commission to give overall policy guidance to and carry out supervision of the operations of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

"8. Takes into account that the Commission should fulfil its mandate in line with paragraphs 222 to 225 of the Habitat Agenda and in harmony with recommendations made by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly chapter 7 of Agenda 21;

"9. Decides that the Commission, in fulfilling its mandate, shall assist the Economic and Social Council in monitoring, reviewing and assessing the progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, inter alia, through the analysis of relevant inputs from Governments, local authorities and their associations, relevant non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

"10. Decides further that the Commission shall identify issues where system-wide coordination needs to be improved and modalities for promoting system-wide coordination, in order to assist the Council in its coordination function;

"III

"Structure of the agenda and work programme of the Commission

"11. Urges the Commission to adopt a multi-year work programme for a focused and thematic approach, culminating in an overall review and appraisal of the Habitat Agenda in the year 2001. The work programme will, inter alia, provide a framework to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and will be in line with the coordinated follow-up to conferences;

"12. Decides that the work of the Commission in relation to the programme of work shall be primarily focused on the relevant provisions of the Habitat Agenda, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

"13. Decides that the agenda of the Commission on Human Settlements at its future sessions shall include the following substantive items, derived from Habitat II:

"(a) Consideration of issues identified in the multi-year programme of work;

"(b) Review of the relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the themes "Sustainable human settlements development" and "Adequate shelter for all";

"(c) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting human settlements development;

"14. Further decides that at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions, the Commission will focus on monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and assessing its impact. The sessions will be structured around the four substantive areas of the Habitat Agenda, as follows:

"(a) Adequate shelter for all, incorporating also the monitoring of the Global Shelter Strategy;

"(b) Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, incorporating also the monitoring of chapter 7 of Agenda 21;

"(c) Capacity-building and institutional development;

"(d) International cooperation and coordination;

"15. Also decides that:

"(a) At its seventeenth session, in 1999, the Commission will address the above-mentioned substantive areas;

"(b) At its eighteenth session, in 2001, the Commission will focus on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, if appropriate;

"(c) In 1998 and 2000 the Centre, will analyse the progress on national implementation status, organized around the four above-mentioned substantive areas, and prepare synthesized reports, to be submitted for consideration by the Commission at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions;

"IV

"Documentation

"16. Requests that all United Nations documentation be kept concise, clear, analytical and timely, with a focus on relevant issues, and that to the greatest extent possible use be made of integrated reporting; that reports contain recommendations for action and indicate the actors; that reports be available in all official languages, in accordance with the rules of the United Nations; and that the use of other methods of reporting, such as oral reports, should also be explored;

"V

"Methods of work of the Commission

"17. Recognizes that the methods of work of the Commission should be revitalized, in order to improve the profile of the Commission and attract high-level political participation;

"18. Decides that preparation of thematic discussions in the Commission should be broadened by:

"(a) Inviting countries to contribute to preparation of the sessions through, for example, organizing seminars or expert panels on issues directly related to the themes that will be discussed at the session and to report thereon;

"(b) Involving local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other partners in the preparatory phases of the sessions;

"19. Also decides that, during the sessions of the Commission, dialogues with major groups and panel discussions may be organized, the format of which as with all other agenda items should be decided upon at the preceding sessions of the Commission;

"20. Decides to consider organizing during future sessions of the Commission interactive high-level segments on key policy issues;

"VI

"Secretariat

"21. Urges the Secretary-General to ensure effective functioning of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in line with paragraph 232 of the Habitat Agenda so as to enable it fully to discharge its mandate and, serve as an efficient secretariat to the Commission, within which clear lines of responsibility are drawn, so as to facilitate the implementation of the follow-up to Habitat II and ensure close cooperation at the secretariat level between all United Nations entities involved in the follow-up;

"22. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to submit to future sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements a detailed report on the activities of the regional offices, with special attention to the status of implementation of their respective work programmes, elaborated for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the region."

7 May 1997
9th meeting

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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: FOLLOW-UP TO POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/120 of 20 December 1995 on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and 50/227 of 24 May 1995 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social, and related fields, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/42 of 26 July 1996,

Recalling also that, in order to fulfil its coordination role, and in accordance with the policies formulated by the Assembly, the Council should consider, on an annual basis in the operational activities segment, the overall financial situation of the United Nations funds and programmes, particularly the contributions from developed countries to core resources, and make specific recommendations thereon on enhancing such contributions,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council and on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

Reaffirming that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have a critical and unique role to play in enabling developing countries to continue to take a lead role in the management of their own development process and that the funds and programmes constitute important vehicles for advancing international development cooperation,

Noting with regret that, although significant progress has already been made on the restructuring and rationalization of the governance and functioning of the United Nations development funds and programmes, there has not been, as part of the overall reform process, any substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, nor have the consultations on prospective new modalities for financing reached a conclusion,

Gravely concerned that the persistent insufficiency and decline of resources for operational activities for development, in particular of core resources, is seriously affecting the priorities and the capacity of the United Nations funds and programmes to carry out their functions and to respond effectively to the increasing needs of all developing countries, as well as seriously eroding their fundamental mandates and characteristics, particularly their universal and multilateral character,

Stressing that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Recognizing the urgent and specific needs of the low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries,

Noting with appreciation the sustained contributions of some donors and recipient countries to the operational activities for development in a spirit of partnership and the recently expressed willingness of some donors to increase their contribution to the funds and programmes,

Reaffirming that capacity-building and its sustainability are an essential element for operational activities of the United Nations systems at the country level, which should be country-led and country-driven,

Noting that Assembly resolution 50/120 provides an opportunity to review all aspects of operational activities, including the resident coordinator system,

1. Takes note of the reports of the United Nations funds and programmes;

I

2. Strongly reaffirms that the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the operational activities of the United Nations system must be enhanced by, inter alia, a substantial increase in their funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, through the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 47/199 of 22 December 1992, 48/162, 50/120 and 50/227;

3. Stresses that intergovernmental discussion in the General Assembly, including the fifty-second session, and in the Economic and Social Council is essential to defining an international consensus on any measures that are contemplated to enhance the efficiency and functions of the United Nations funds and programmes;

4. Urges the developed countries, in particular those countries whose overall performance is not commensurate with their capacity, taking into account established official development assistance targets and their current level of contribution, to increase substantially their official development assistance, including contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system and for the effective implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations international conferences;

5. Recommends that the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes review and monitor, as a matter of priority and within the context of their regular meetings, their funding schemes, particularly of core resources, with a view to meeting their agreed upon target, reflecting the priorities and needs of programme countries, and increasing the target for voluntary contributions from official sources from the developed countries as the main source for funding of operational activities for the programming cycles, including the present cycle;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to include in the report requested in paragraph 17 of Assembly resolution 50/227 proposals for increasing funding for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and

assured basis, with a view to allowing the resumption during the fifty-second session of the Assembly substantive discussion on new modalities for funding of operational activities for development;

7. Decides to continue examining during the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 1998 the issue of funding for operational activities of the United Nations system;

II

8. Reaffirms that the objective of capacity-building and its sustainability should continue to be an essential part of the operational activities of the United Nations system at the country level and should be country-driven, situation specific and consistent with national development plans and priorities, with the programmatic approach;

9. Emphasizes that capacity building should aim at strengthening national execution, particularly in institutional and human resource development, with a view to enhancing local ownership and management of the development process, utilizing available local capacities and expertise;

10. Requests the United Nations Funds and Programmes to continue to provide support to the resident coordinator system as provided in Assembly resolution 50/120.

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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATICS

Albania*, Algeria*, Andorra*, Angola*, Antigua and Barbuda*, Argentina, Armenia*, Australia, Azerbaijan*, Bahamas*, Bahrain*, Bangladesh, Barbados*, Belize*, Benin*, Bhutan*, Bolivia*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Botswana*, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam*, Bulgaria*, Burkina Faso*, Burundi*, Cambodia*, Cameroon*, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad*, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros*, Congo, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia*, Cuba, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea*, Democratic Republic of the Congo*, Djibouti, Dominica*, Dominican Republic*, Ecuador*, Egypt*, El Salvador, Eritrea*, Ethiopia*, Fiji*, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana*, Grenada*, Guatemala*, Guinea*, Guinea-Bissau*, Guyana, Haiti*, Honduras*, Hungary*, Indonesia*, Iran (Islamic Republic of)*, Iraq*, Italy*, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan*, Kenya*, Kuwait*, Kyrgyzstan*, Lao People's Democratic Republic*, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho*, Liberia*, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*, Liechtenstein*, Lithuania*, Madagascar*, Malawi*, Malaysia, Mali*, Malta*, Marshall Islands*, Mauritania*, Mauritius*, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of)*, Mongolia*, Morocco*, Mozambique, Myanmar*, Namibia*, Nepal*, New Zealand*, Nicaragua, Niger*, Nigeria*, Norway*, Oman*, Pakistan*, Palau*, Panama*, Papua New Guinea*, Paraguay*, Peru*, Philippines, Poland, Qatar*, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova*, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda*, Saint Kitts and Nevis*, Saint Lucia*, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*, Samoa*, San Marino*, Saudi Arabia*, Senegal*, Seychelles*, Sierra Leone*, Singapore*, Slovakia*, Slovenia*, Solomon Islands*, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname*, Swaziland*, Syrian Arab Republic*, Tajikistan*, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago*, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan*, Uganda, Ukraine*, United Arab Emirates*, United Republic of Tanzania*, United States of America, Uruguay*, Uzbekistan*, Vanuatu*, Venezuela*, Viet Nam*, Yemen*, Zambia, Zimbabwe*: draft resolution

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Conscious of the deep interest of Member States in harnessing the benefits of new information technologies for furthering the objectives of the United Nations, including the objectives of economic and social development,

Recalling its resolutions 1991/70 of 26 July 1991, 1992/60 of 31 July 1992, 1993/56 of 29 July 1993, 1994/46 of 29 July 1994, 1995/61 of 28 July 1995 and 1996/35 of 25 July 1996 on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States, with due regard to all official languages,

Recalling also that in its resolution 1996/35, it commended the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for the concrete actions it had taken in pursuance of its mandate, and requested the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Working Group for one more year, from within existing resources, for the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on this item,

Welcoming the report presented by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics on the progress achieved so far by the Working Group in fulfilling its mandate,

Highly appreciating the accomplishments of the Working Group, which include:

(a) The attainment of near universal connectivity between the United Nations databases and the Permanent Missions of the Member States,

(b) The training of a large number of personnel of the Permanent Missions and the Secretariat on a variety of electronic facilities and techniques,

(c) The identification and progressive elimination of several impediments to access to the United Nations databases,

(d) The establishment of video-conferencing facilities for use by the Permanent Missions and the Secretariat,

(e) The establishment of the United Nations Web Page on the Internet and a connection between this facility and the United Nations Optical Disk System,

(f) The uploading of all resolutions and decisions of the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council from 1946 onwards on the United Nations Optical Disk System, and the increasing database of documents on the United Nations Web Page,

(g) The efforts to enable the United Nations and its Member States to reduce waste and duplication as well as expenditure on unnecessary documentation,

(h) The assistance given to Permanent Missions in creating their own Web pages on the Internet,

Deeply appreciating that the work of the Working Group has not involved any additional expenditures and that its needs have been met from within existing resources,

Highly appreciating that the work done by the Working Group has already resulted in savings for the United Nations and its Member States and has created opportunities for further savings,

Taking note with deep interest of the proposed initiatives of the Working Group, including the promotion of computer-based decision-making techniques to facilitate the drafting of resolutions and documents in ways that would accelerate the reaching of agreements in the process of drafting, and the employment of modern information technology for the developmental activities of the United Nations,

Recognizing that the work done by the Working Group will support and facilitate the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with a view to expanding the use of information technology and the availability and transparency of information in order to further facilitate access to United Nations information in all countries,

Agreeing with the assessment contained in the report of the Working Group that further work needs to be done by the Working Group to fulfil its mandate,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up action taken, [1]

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[1] E/1997/88.

1. Reiterates, once again, the high priority it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members of the United Nations and for observers, through, inter alia, their Permanent Missions, to the growing number of computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations;

2. Calls for the urgent and continued implementation of measures required to achieve these objectives;

3. Reaffirms the continuing need for representatives of States to be closely consulted and actively associated with the respective executive and governing bodies of United Nations institutions dealing with informatics within the United Nations system, so that the specific needs of States as internal end-users can be given due priority;

4. Decides that the action programme to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States should continue to be implemented from within existing resources and in full consultation with the representatives of States;

5. Highly commends the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for the concrete actions it has taken and for the impressive results it has produced in pursuance of its mandate;

6. Requests the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Working Group for one more year, from within existing resources, for the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on this item, and for facilitating the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology;

7. Requests the Working Group to design an overall information management strategy for the United Nations system;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Working Group and to give priority to implementing its recommendations;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to report on the follow-up action taken on the present resolution, including the findings of the Working Group, to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998.

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Agenda item 7 (c)

REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES: SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Social development

Portugal: draft amendments to draft resolution IV, entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, including a World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth", contained in chapter I of the report of the Commission on Social Development

1. Page 9, operative paragraph 1

The following should be added at the end of the paragraph:

and of the report of the Secretary-General on the cooperation of the United Nations with the Government of Portugal on the holding of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth;

2. Page 10, operative paragraph 5

The following should be added at the end of the paragraph:

, as well as its support to the holding of the third session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, which is to be convened by the United Nations in partnership with the Portuguese National Youth Council and to take place at Braga, Portugal, from 3 to 7 August 1998;

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COORDINATION OF POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEME: MAINSTREAMING THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE INTO ALL POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Gerhard Walter Henze (Germany)

1. The Economic and Social Council takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of United Nations system activities for mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system (E/1997/66).

2. States unanimously agreed at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing in 1995, that it is essential to design, implement and monitor, with the full participation of women, effective, efficient and mutually reinforcing gender-sensitive policies and programmes, including development policies and programmes, at all levels that will foster the empowerment and advancement of women. In order to ensure effective implementation of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action, 1/ the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective.

1/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1997 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. 1, resolution 1, annex II.

GE.97-62849 (E)

3. In recognition of the fact that a gender perspective has not yet been fully integrated into the mainstream of United Nations activities, the Council wishes to promote a coordinated and coherent policy of gender mainstreaming by further clarifying the concept of mainstreaming and central principles associated with it as well as by addressing specific recommendations to all actors within the United Nations system.

I. CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES

A. Definition of the concept of gender mainstreaming

4. Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.

B. Principles for mainstreaming a gender perspective in the United Nations system

5. Issues across all areas of United Nations activities should be defined in such a manner that gender differences can be diagnosed, i.e. an assumption of gender-neutrality should not be made.

6. Responsibility for translating gender mainstreaming into practice is system-wide and rests at the highest levels. Accountability for outcomes needs to be monitored constantly.

7. Gender mainstreaming also requires that all efforts be made to broaden women's participation at all levels of decision-making.

8. Gender mainstreaming must be institutionalized through concrete steps, mechanisms and processes in all parts of the United Nations system.

9. Gender mainstreaming does not replace the need for targeted, women-specific policies and programmes, and/or positive legislation, nor does it substitute gender units or focal points.

10. Clear political will and the allocation of adequate and, if need be, additional human and financial resources for gender mainstreaming from all available funding sources are important for successful translation of the concept into practice.

II. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

11. The Economic and Social Council highlights the importance of undertaking immediate and concrete steps to mainstream a gender perspective, including the implementation as a matter of urgency of the recommendations contained in this document, and at the latest by the time of the five-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2000.

A. The intergovernmental process of the United Nations

12. The Economic and Social Council encourages the General Assembly to direct all of its committees and bodies and draw the attention of other bodies of the United Nations system to the need to mainstream a gender perspective systematically into all areas of their work, in particular in areas such as macroeconomic questions, operational activities for development, poverty eradication, human rights, humanitarian assistance, budgeting, disarmament, peace and security, and legal and political matters, taking full advantage of the outcome of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women.

13. All bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, should ensure in their work that all programmes visibly mainstream a gender perspective.

14. Other intergovernmental bodies with similar responsibilities in the United Nations system, for instance, the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the specialized agencies, are encouraged to monitor the way in which the concerned agencies, funds and programmes implement gender mainstreaming in their respective medium-term plans and programme budgets, including at the field level.

15. The Council will take steps to strengthen its harmonization and coordination of the work programmes of the functional commissions, as well as the interaction between the Council, the functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies on ways to accelerate gender mainstreaming, and, to this end, entrusts its bureau with establishing or strengthening a dialogue with the chairpersons and bureaux of those bodies as well as between them, with the active support of the chairperson and bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women.

16. The Council calls upon all of its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies to mainstream a gender perspective in their work, and in this regard:

(a) To adopt, as a first step, an explicit decision on mainstreaming a gender perspective in their work;

(b) To make maximum use of the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the 12 critical areas of concern when monitoring implementation of global conferences with regard to related topics, at the national and international level;

(c) To take into account the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights in the area of enjoyment of human rights by women.

17. The Commission on the Status of Women is urged:

(a) To provide suggestions to other functional commissions and the Council on gender mainstreaming;

(b) To use the work of other functional commissions, in view of the 12 critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action - for example, in 1998, that of the Commission on Human Rights and, in 1999, that of the Commission on Population and Development, in relation to priority themes.

18. Regional commissions are requested to assume a catalytic role in exchanging experiences and best practices as well as promoting cooperation on gender mainstreaming on a regional level.

19. The Secretariat is requested to present issues and approaches in a gender-sensitive manner when preparing reports so as to provide the intergovernmental machinery with an analytical basis for gender-responsive policy formulation and to ensure that the intergovernmental machinery is made aware of the decisions and recommendations of other relevant bodies in relation to gender mainstreaming.

20. Under an item entitled "Integrated follow-up of major United Nations conferences", the Council will monitor annually the way in which its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies mainstream a gender perspective on the basis of the report on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

B. Institutional requirements for gender mainstreaming in all policies and programmes

21. The Council welcomes the Secretary-General's commitment to mainstreaming a gender perspective and encourages him to demand accountability from senior

managers to realize gender mainstreaming and, in this regard, the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women is encouraged to continue to fulfil her important role.

22. In the ongoing reform process within the United Nations system, inter alia, in the work of the executive committees, the systemic integration of a gender perspective should be ensured.

23. The Council encourages the efforts of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to develop a mission statement on gender mainstreaming and trusts that such a statement will send a clear and concrete message to the system and will be applicable system-wide.

24. The heads of the specialized agencies are encouraged to establish accountability of senior managers for gender mainstreaming.

25. All entities of the United Nations system should, making full use of the expertise and support of gender units or focal points - the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality - institutionalize mainstreaming of a gender perspective at all levels through specific steps including:

(a) The adoption of gender mainstreaming policies and the formulation of specific mainstreaming strategies for sectoral areas;

(b) The use of institutional directives rather than discretionary guidelines for gender mainstreaming;

(c) The improvement of tools for gender mainstreaming such as gender analysis, the use of data disaggregated by sex and age and sector-specific gender surveys, as well as gender-sensitive studies, guidelines and checklists for programming;

(d) The establishment of instruments and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, such as gender-impact analysis methodologies;

(e) The creation of accountability mechanisms for gender mainstreaming.

26. United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies should ensure that, on the basis of gender analysis, gender concerns are addressed in all planning activities, when setting priorities, allocating resources, and identifying actions and activities. They should also be requested to include

an assessment of the steps taken to translate gender mainstreaming into country programmes and projects in their reports to the Council at its operational activities segment.

27. All entities of the United Nations system should institute mechanisms for gender mainstreaming in their planning and programming, for example, through participation of gender specialists in these processes. Administrative procedures should be adapted to include mechanisms of accountability, ensuring that a gender analysis has been conducted and its results reflected in the respective activity.

28. The Council will assess the extent to which a gender perspective is being applied through institutional directives for planning and programming, in preparation of the comprehensive review of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001.

29. The Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, the Division for the Advancement of Women, INSTRAW and UNIFEM, in their advocacy and advisory role, should better coordinate their support and catalytic activities for gender mainstreaming and should identify and develop joint activities and work plans in appropriate areas. The annual reports of INSTRAW and UNIFEM should be made available to the Commission on the Status of Women for information.

C. The role of gender units and focal points in gender mainstreaming

30. The location, seniority level, resources and participation of gender units/focal points in all policy-making and programming processes and support by the most senior levels of management and decision-making are also crucial in translating the gender mainstreaming mandate into practical reality. The role of such gender specialists in all areas, including the economic and social field, human rights and the political, humanitarian, peace and security areas, should be strengthened.

31. The responsibilities of gender units and focal points should include:

(a) Support for the development of gender-sensitive policies and programme strategies;

(b) Advice and support of staff in applying a gender perspective, in particular in the follow-up to United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of tools and methodologies for gender mainstreaming;

(d) Collection and dissemination of information and best practices;

(e) Assistance in monitoring and evaluating progress in gender mainstreaming in policy, programme and budgetary terms.

32. At the field level, United Nations gender units and focal points should:

(a) Provide guidance to the entities of the United Nations system on gender mainstreaming in the integrated conference follow-up across different sectoral areas;

(b) In this regard, network with national machinery for the advancement of women and all non-governmental organizations, in particular women's non-governmental organizations.

D. Capacity-building for gender mainstreaming

33. To enhance system-wide gender sensitivity and gender expertise through training as a priority for gender mainstreaming, all entities of the United Nations system should:

(a) Integrate a gender perspective into all training programmes;

(b) Provide continuous gender training for all staff, including those at the highest levels;

(c) Provide special training for gender experts to enhance their skills;

(d) Ensure that specialized gender expertise is available to them;

(e) Coordinate their training efforts through a system-wide evaluation of the impact of gender-training.

34. The relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system should consider making arrangements and, if necessary, drawing up additional protocols to existing memoranda of understanding in order to mainstream a gender perspective in inter-agency partnerships and in cooperation agreements with intergovernmental organizations.

35. To strengthen capacities for the collection, evaluation and exchange of gender-related information, a coordinated, system-wide effort under the leadership of the main coordinators for specific areas is needed for the development and systematic usage of, inter alia:

(a) Gender-disaggregated statistics and indicators;

(b) Proposals for treaty bodies and States on how to use statistics, including gender-disaggregated data, in reporting on and monitoring all relevant treaties in order to integrate a gender perspective;

(c) Non-numerical indicators to monitor gender mainstreaming;

(d) Electronic networks for information exchange on gender mainstreaming, such as WomenWatch;

(e) Gender-sensitive public information activities and materials in all thematic areas.

36. Gender balance is another central goal. It is recommended that the General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women be regularly provided with statistics on the number and percentage of women at all levels throughout the whole United Nations system. The Council reaffirms the goal of a 50/50 gender distribution by the year 2000 within the United Nations system, especially at the D-1 level and above, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, also taking into account the lack of representation or the under-representation of certain countries. The ACC Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions and the International Civil Service Commission should monitor progress in staffing policies aimed at achieving gender balance.

37. Capacity-building also requires the collection and sharing of best practices and lessons learned within the United Nations system and at the national level, including successful national initiatives:

(a) The Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality is encouraged to develop a standardized format for documenting and assessing gender mainstreaming experiences in all areas of work, such as social and economic development, macroeconomic questions, operational activities for development, poverty eradication, human rights, humanitarian assistance, budgeting, disarmament, peace and security, and legal and political matters, including in training and capacity-building;

(b) The practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in cooperating and collaborating with other treaty-monitoring bodies, should serve as a good example of the mainstreaming of a gender perspective throughout the United Nations system;

(c) At the field level, United Nations operational entities should, with support from gender experts and coordinated by inter-agency committees, develop and share memoranda of understanding on gender equality goals in programme development and project implementation.

38. The Division for the Advancement of Women, acting as the secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women, should play an especially

active role in generating new ideas, proposing practical suggestions and promoting constructive implementation of gender mainstreaming.

39. Capacity building further requires recognizing the importance of working with national commissions, national institutions for the advancement of women and non-governmental organizations, in particular women's non-governmental organizations, and developing partnerships with them.

40. Accountability structures for gender mainstreaming need to be introduced and/or strengthened through institutional mechanisms and management culture. In this regard, the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality is encouraged:

(a) To prepare a catalogue of accountability measures, including performance indicators, to monitor and evaluate progress in gender mainstreaming on both the programmatic and resource side;

(b) To establish a baseline on gender mainstreaming performance by identifying a number of core indicators to be used in all departments and entities;

(c) To report regularly thereon, including to the Commission on the Status of Women.

E. Gender mainstreaming in the integrated follow-up to global United Nations conferences

41. In order to facilitate gender mainstreaming in the integrated follow-up, review and appraisal of global United Nations conferences, the Council urges all entities of the United Nations system to:

(a) Apply a gender perspective to all conference follow-up and, where appropriate, adjust their implementation activities accordingly, including through targeted, women-specific projects;

(b) To utilize gender analysis effectively to identify differential impacts of implementation on women and men and to guide implementation towards gender equality.

42. The resident coordinator should play a primary role in developing a coherent approach to gender mainstreaming in United Nations activities on conference follow-up at the field level, inter alia, through country strategy notes where these exist. Close cooperation between the resident coordinator, UNIFEM regional programme advisers, UNDP gender focal points and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes should be ensured.

43. All United Nations gender experts/focal points at the field level, including the UNIFEM regional programme advisers, should:

(a) Establish a policy dialogue within sectoral areas to identify areas of commonality and complementarity of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action with the results of other United Nations conferences;

(b) Facilitate linkages between national machineries for the advancement of women and all non-governmental organizations, in particular women's non-governmental organizations, and the institutions and processes engaged in implementation of United Nations conferences.

44. Enhanced interaction among the Division for the Advancement of Women, INSTRAW, UNIFEM and national machineries for the advancement of women, such as national commissions, national institutions and all non-governmental organizations, in particular women's non-governmental organizations and relevant research institutes, should be pursued.

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COORDINATION AND PROGRAMME:
PROCLAMATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEARS

Afghanistan*, Andorra*, Argentina, Armenia*, Austria*, Azerbaijan*, Bangladesh, Bhutan*, Brazil, Cambodia*, Canada*, China, Congo, Djibouti, France, Georgia*, Germany, Guyana, Italy*, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakstan*, Kyrgyzstan*, Lebanon, Liechtenstein*, Monaco*, Mongolia*, Nepal*, Peru*, Republic of Moldova*, Romania, Slovenia*, Switzerland*, Tajikistan*, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Turkey, Turkmenistan*, Ukraine* and Uzbekistan*: draft resolution

Proclamation of an international year of mountains

The Economic and Social Council,

Mindful that mountains represent an essential component of the global life-support system and a positive asset offering opportunities for sustainable development, if adequately managed on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge and with due regard to the protection of nature and the interests of humankind,

Recognizing that, as a major ecosystem representing the complex and interrelated ecology of this planet, mountains are essential to the survival of the global ecosystem and play an important role in shaping life on Earth,

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* In accordance with Rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Noting that mountains are an important source of water, energy, minerals, forest and agricultural products and biological diversity, which are all of vital importance to both individual States and the international community,

Bearing in mind that mountains cover at least one fifth of the Earth's landscape and are home to at least 10 per cent of the world's population, predominantly economically poor people,

Recognizing that sustaining life in mountains is economically and socially more costly than in lowland areas and concerned about the widespread poverty, unemployment and poor health among mountain inhabitants and the loss of indigenous knowledge,

Confirming that at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the international community recognized that there was a lack of knowledge about mountain ecosystems and called for renewed international and regional cooperation to develop an integrated approach for conserving, upgrading and using the land, water, plant, animal and human resources and promoting alternative livelihood opportunities for mountain inhabitants with a view to improving their living standards,

Welcoming, the various regional and subregional initiatives and international instruments, such as the Alpine Convention, which provide frameworks for international cooperation for the protection of mountain environments,

Recalling its decision 1995/235 of 17 July 1995 on the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development and taking note of the decisions of the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21,

Bearing in mind that an international conference entitled "Mountain research: challenges and prospects in the twenty-first century" was held at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from 14 to 18 October 1996 and adopted a decision to draw the attention of the international community to the exceptional importance of mountain ranges for mankind and to propose that the General Assembly declare an international year of mountains,

Recalling its resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980, in which it recognized that the celebration of international years can promote international

cooperation and understanding in accordance with the guidelines contained therein,

1. Invites Governments, in cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations, to undertake awareness-raising activities on the problems and challenges faced by mountainous countries and communities;

2. Encourages Governments and intergovernmental organizations to coordinate regional and international cooperation and facilitate the exchange of information and experience among the specialized agencies and relevant international and regional organizations, research institutions and non-governmental organizations on the issues related to mountain regions, including the manageability and interaction of mountains and the economy, the impact of mountains on the socio-economic development of countries, the sustainable human development and the like;

3. Welcomes and supports the ongoing efforts to prepare and negotiate subregional and interregional agreements on mountains, thus reinforcing legal mechanisms to protect fragile mountain ecosystems and promote sustainable and equitable development in mountain regions;

4. Encourages regional, national and international networking of people's initiatives and the activities of international, regional and local non-governmental organizations working on mountain development, and supports those organizations in their efforts to exchange information and experience;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Governments and relevant international, regional and non-governmental organizations, to submit to it at the substantive session of 1998 a report on the desirability of proclaiming an international year of mountains and on other ways and means of ensuring the sustainable development of mountain countries.

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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: PROCLAMATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEARS

Russian Federation: draft resolution

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, in which, inter alia, the Assembly stressed, in annex I, paragraphs 66 and 67, that the primary function of the general segment should be an action-oriented review of the activities, reports and recommendations of the Council's subsidiary bodies and that the Council should regularly review the agenda of its general segment with a view to discontinuing consideration of items not relevant to the work of its subsidiary machinery or duplicative of items on the agenda of the General Assembly,

1. Recommends that the General Assembly adopt a decision that, beginning in 1998, the issue of proclamation of international years will be dealt with directly by the relevant committees of the General Assembly;

2. Also recommends that the guidelines for future international years contained in the annex to its resolution 1980/67 remain applicable, as appropriate.

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REGIONAL COOPERATION

France, Morocco* and Spain: draft resolution

Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983, 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, 1985/70 of 26 July 1985, 1987/69 of 8 July 1987, 1989/119 of 28 July 1989, 1991/74 of 22 July 1991, 1993/60 of 30 July 1993 and 1995/48 of 27 July 1995,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 43/179 of 20 December 1988, by which the Assembly declared the period 1991-2000 the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Referring to resolution 912 (1989) adopted on 1 February 1989 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe 1/ regarding measures to

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ See Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, fortieth ordinary session (third part), 30 January-3 February 1989, Texts adopted by the Assembly, Strasbourg, France, 1989.

encourage the construction of a major traffic artery in south-western Europe and to study thoroughly the possibility of a permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

Referring to the Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference held at Barcelona in November 1995 and to the work programme annexed thereto, which aims in the field of transport at the connection of the Mediterranean networks to the trans-European network so as to ensure their interoperability,

Referring also to the Lisbon Declaration adopted at the conference on transport in the Mediterranean held in January 1997 and to the conclusions of the Pan-European Conference held at Helsinki in June 1997 on corridors in the Mediterranean incorporating the permanent link,

Taking note of the follow-up report prepared jointly by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa [2] in accordance with resolution 1995/48,

Also taking note of the conclusions of the second and third meetings of the Western Mediterranean transport group, held respectively at Rabat in September 1995 and at Madrid in January 1997, which included the permanent link among the priority corridors in the extension of the trans-European network,

1. Welcomes the cooperation on the project for the link through the Strait of Gibraltar established between the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Governments of Morocco and Spain and specialized international organizations;

2. Also welcomes the organization under the auspices of the United Nations and the International Tunnelling Association of two seminars held at Tarifa, Spain, in February 1997, on the suitability of tunnel boring machines for the project, and at Vienna in April 1997, on the methodology for estimating the cost of tunnels;

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[2] E/1997/51.

3. Commends the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe on the work done in preparing the project follow-up report requested by the Council in its resolution 1995/48, even though necessary resources were not forthcoming from the General Assembly;

4. Repeats its invitation to the competent organizations of the United Nations system and to non-governmental organizations, including in particular the International Tunnelling Association and the International Union of Railways, to participate in the studies and work on the permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar;

5. Also repeats its invitation to the European Commission to consider the possibility of participating in the consolidation of the studies and the development of the project both institutionally and financially;

6. Requests the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to continue to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1999;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to provide formal support and, to the extent that priorities permit, necessary resources, within the regular budget, to the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe in order to enable them to carry out the above-mentioned activities.

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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION ON TOBACCO OR HEALTH

Bangladesh: draft resolution

Tobacco or health

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1993/79 of 30 July 1993, 1994/47 of 29 July 1994 and 1995/62 of 28 July 1995,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health,[1]

Taking note also of the adoption by the World Health Assembly of resolution WHA49.17 of 25 May 1996 to initiate the development of an international framework convention on tobacco control, in accordance with article 19 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization, in collaboration with the United Nations system and coordinated through the United Nations system focal point on tobacco or health,

1. Welcomes the progress made by some United Nations organizations, agencies and offices in compliance with Economic and Social Council and World Health Assembly resolutions calling for a ban on the use of tobacco within the

[1] E/1997/62.

buildings of the United Nations system and emphasizes again the importance of full and effective implementation of those resolutions;

2. Notes with appreciation the message of the Secretary-General on the occasion of 1997 World No-Tobacco Day, in which he announced his decision to make all United Nations buildings smoke-free by the end of 1997 and requested the United Nations system focal point on tobacco or health to assist in achieving this objective;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the United Nations focal point and in cooperation with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, to provide support and assistance to all members of and participants in the Administrative Committee on Coordination in the implementation of World Health Assembly resolution WHA46.8 and the Secretary-General's commitment to a smoke-free United Nations by the end of 1997;

4. Decides to establish a Special Tobacco Control Voluntary Trust Fund to finance the most urgent activities of the United Nations system focal point on tobacco or health and invites Member States, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization and other United Nations organizations, agencies and offices, as well as other contributors from civil society, to contribute financial and technical resources to this Fund;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998 on progress made by the United Nations system focal point in the implementation of relevant Council resolutions on tobacco or health.

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